

1 AN ACT concerning a youth service scholarship program.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Youth Service Scholarship Act.

6 Section 5. Intent. It is the intent of the General  
7 Assembly to establish the Youth Service Scholarship Program  
8 to accomplish all of the following goals:

9 (1) Provide this State's youth with opportunities to do  
10 all of the following:

11 (A) Give back to their communities through service.

12 (B) Enhance their access to a college education.

13 (C) Develop, in "real life" situations, the skills  
14 and understanding critical to their development as  
15 students, workers, and community members.

16 (D) Develop a lifelong ethic of service and a  
17 richer understanding of citizenship in a democratic  
18 society.

19 (2) Deter juvenile delinquency by providing this State's  
20 youth with after school and intersession alternatives that  
21 promote public service.

22 (3) Form a partnership between schools and community  
23 organizations dedicated to building responsibility and  
24 broadening higher education opportunities for this State's  
25 youth.

26 (4) Mobilize youth, an often neglected resource, in  
27 service that meets the critical needs of their communities  
28 by, for example, tutoring preschool children in reading,  
29 assisting licensed providers' care for infants and toddlers,  
30 helping with after school recreational programs and  
31 nutritional programs for elementary school pupils, helping

1 the frail and elderly to live independently, contributing to  
2 neighborhood cleanup and housing rehabilitation projects, and  
3 assisting their peers to become involved in community  
4 service.

5 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

6 "Commission" means the Illinois Commission on  
7 Volunteerism and Community Service.

8 "Program" means the Youth Service Scholarship Program.

9 Section 15. Establishment of Program; availability to  
10 consortia.

11 (a) There is hereby established the Youth Service  
12 Scholarship Program, a pilot program, to be administered by  
13 the Commission. The Program shall be in effect for fiscal  
14 years 2004 through 2008, and the Program shall be made  
15 available to consortia that are comprised of one or more  
16 school districts that operate schools with grades 9 through  
17 12 and at least 3 community-based organizations. The  
18 consortia shall be selected for participation in the program  
19 on a competitive basis by the Commission.

20 (b) A pupil may be selected by a consortium to earn a  
21 scholarship while the pupil is enrolled in any of grades 9  
22 through 12 in a public school located in this State that is  
23 involved in the consortium. The pupil may redeem the  
24 scholarship if the pupil enrolls in a private or public  
25 postsecondary or vocational institution located in this State  
26 by December 1 of the year the pupil graduates from high  
27 school or receives a high school equivalency certificate. A  
28 student may defer redeeming the scholarship for 2 years. A  
29 pupil wishing to defer his or her scholarship shall notify  
30 the Commission, in writing, by December 1 of the year the  
31 pupil graduates from high school or receives a high school  
32 equivalency certificate. A pupil may also defer redeeming

1 the scholarship for longer than 2 years if the pupil enters  
2 service in AmeriCorps, another national service program, or a  
3 branch of the United States Armed Services, in which case the  
4 scholarship shall be redeemed upon completion of the service.  
5 The Commission may grant a request to delay redemption of a  
6 scholarship beyond 2 years for other reasons on a case by  
7 case basis.

8 (c) In the event that the Commission ceases to exist,  
9 the Program shall be administered by the Illinois Student  
10 Assistance Commission.

11 Section 20. Award of scholarships. Upon completion of  
12 100 hours of volunteer community service, as defined by the  
13 Commission pursuant to Section 35 of this Act, performed  
14 between September 1 of one year and August 31 of the next  
15 year, a pupil shall earn a scholarship in the amount of \$500.  
16 The maximum amount of a scholarship is \$2,000, provided a  
17 pupil performs the required amount of community service  
18 during each of grades 9 through 12. A scholarship shall only  
19 be used for tuition, fees, books, supplies, and living  
20 expenses. If possible, an equal number of scholarships shall  
21 be awarded to pupils enrolled in each of grades 9 through 12.

22 Section 25. Service sites.

23 (a) The community service described in Section 20 of  
24 this Act shall only be performed at service sites that are  
25 approved by the consortium, based on guidelines developed by  
26 the Commission, pursuant to Sections 30 and 35 of this Act.

27 (b) A service site may not provide any salary or stipend  
28 to the pupils performing community service in conjunction  
29 with the Program.

30 (c) Any public or private not for profit organization,  
31 including a school, located in this State is eligible to  
32 participate as a service site if the service to be provided

1 by pupils seeking to earn scholarships meets the definition  
2 of community service developed by the Commission pursuant to  
3 Section 35 of this Act.

4 (d) The consortia shall give priority to service sites  
5 that meet the needs of low-income youth or focus on reducing  
6 juvenile delinquency, or both.

7 (e) The Commission shall ensure that consortia and  
8 participating service sites comply with all applicable State  
9 and federal child welfare laws.

10 Section 30. Selection of pupils and consortia;  
11 application.

12 (a) The Commission shall develop guidelines to be used  
13 by the consortia to select pupils to participate in the  
14 Program. These guidelines shall give selection priority to  
15 pupils who will participate in academically meaningful  
16 community service.

17 (b) The Commission shall develop guidelines for  
18 selecting consortia for participation in the Program. The  
19 Commission shall give priority to consortia with a  
20 participating school district that serves a high percentage  
21 of students qualifying for a free lunch under the federal  
22 Child Nutrition Act of 1966.

23 (c) The Commission shall attempt to include an equal  
24 distribution of consortia serving urban, rural, and suburban  
25 communities.

26 (d) The Commission shall develop an application form and  
27 instructions for completion of the form to be used by  
28 consortia when applying for participation in the program.  
29 The Commission shall notify all eligible school districts  
30 about the Program and shall include a copy of the application  
31 form and instructions with the notice.

32 Section 35. Community service defined. The Commission,

1 in consultation with the State Board of Education, shall  
2 define eligible community service based on the definitions of  
3 community service used in the federal work-study program and  
4 the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended by  
5 the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993.

6 Section 40. Administrative costs. Administrative costs  
7 under this Act shall not exceed actual costs up to a maximum  
8 of 10% in fiscal year 2004 and 6% thereafter. The Commission  
9 shall reimburse a participating school district within a  
10 consortium for administrative costs incurred in administering  
11 the Program, in an amount that does not exceed 5% of the  
12 amount of each scholarship administered by that school  
13 district.

14 Section 45. Study. By July 1, 2007 the Commission shall  
15 submit to the General Assembly a study of the efficacy of the  
16 Program. The study shall include, but is not limited to, all  
17 of the following:

- 18 (1) The demand for scholarships by grade level.
- 19 (2) The demand for pupil participants by service  
20 sites.
- 21 (3) General background data on participating pupils  
22 and consortia.
- 23 (4) Types of service performed by participating  
24 pupils.
- 25 (5) An itemization of costs for administering the  
26 Program.

27 Section 50. Appropriation of funds. This Act shall be  
28 implemented only to the extent that funds for that purpose  
29 are appropriated.

30 Section 990. Repealer. This Act is repealed on January

1 1, 2009.

2 Section 999. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon

3 becoming law.